



James Headley, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 16, and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Dils, discuss maintenance issues while standing on top of Lock 16's dam. The M/V Davenport can be seen in the background is facing up to the lower side of dam gates 18 and 19 with derrick barge 766, as well as flat barge 924. The Mississippi River Project's Structures Maintenance Crew is making repairs to tainter gate 19. The city of Muscatine, Iowa, sits in background. Photo by Jim Blanchar, chief, Operations Division.

Corps' Wage-Grade Champion Visits District

By Mark Kane

The recently dubbed "wage-grade champion," for the Corps went into the trenches to meet and speak with wage-grade workers in the Rock Island District.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Dils visited District employees at five District locations including LeClaire Base, Locks and Dam 15, Lock and Dam 16, Peoria Lock and Dam, Coralville Lake, and the Clock Tower Building, March 12 - 14.

Dils started working for Corps Headquarters February 1, after the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, created the position to look out for the welfare and needs of the Corps' wage-grade employees.

"The vast network of wage-grade employees do much of the real work of the Corps of Engineers," said Flowers. "You operate our locks, dams, vessels, boatyards, and recreation sites. You are often the only impression the public has

of the Corps and of our Army.

"You present an excellent image, and many of you receive top-flight support from your supervisors and organized labor groups. But, unlike many of the Corps' professionals, you do not have a peer champion in Corps Headquarters to look after your welfare. I've decided to fix that by assigning a new role to the USACE command sergeant major, the role of wage-grade employee champion."

Dils barely received the chance to cool off his feet after arriving in Washington, D.C., before he was on the road, and he didn't waste any time before coming to the District.

Following Dils' whirlwind visit to the


District, the employees that met him were left with a positive impression.

"It was an honor to have the Command Sgt. Maj. visit our site," said James Headley, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 16. "It was a very positive and informational

visit. I think his position will be very useful to the District and to the Corps. Command Sgt. Maj. Dils will be the eyes and ears for Headquarters and can convey to them what our actual conditions and concerns are."

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- James Headley

Dils last tour of duty assignment was Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center, Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. 

Sasha Lotspeich, student aide, District Library, loads a compact disc tower as she prepares to "burn" a series of Corps' CDs.
Photo by Mark Kane

Check out the District Library on the Internet at:

web-server.mvr.usace.army.mil/mvrim/mvrimcl/LibraryHomePage/homepage/



New and Improved District Library

By Bob Romic, Information Management

If you haven't checked out the District Library lately, you're in for a pleasant surprise. Last spring the Library relocated to the lower level of the east end of the Clock Tower Building. The new surroundings have a lot to offer such as:

User space

The new location answered a major concern addressed in user needs assessment surveys. The Library now has the accommodations for small groups of three to five people to sit and discuss projects.

Compact shelving units

The Library increased its shelving unit space from three to 10 units. The new shelving units allow the inclusion of other informational resources besides print, such as aerial and historical photographs, videos and hard copies of Army and engineer regulations. The additional space also provides a stable environment to organize, preserve and maintain valuable District material in a centralized location.

Library staff and services

Librarian Bob Romic and student aides, Ian Schroeder, Sasha Lotspeich and Sandra Weger conduct interlibrary loans, maintain the District Library web site and scan photographs and slides for the Digital Visual Library. Additionally, the staff produces and maintains the visual content seen on the District in-house television -- channel 9. Other responsibilities include presentation of safety videos on channel 18, routing magazines, as well as researching, requesting

and purchasing journals, reports and books that help District employees perform their job better.

Equipment

Library employees recently used the Library's flatbed scanning equipment to scan images into the DVL, which in turn were sent to Iowa Public Television for the production of a documentary on the construction of Locks and Dam 15. Recently, 1930s video footage of the construction of Locks and Dam 15 was sent to the National Geographic Society and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In addition, the Library has a new digital microfiche/film scanner. This allows microfiche, aperture cards and other media to be digitalized for incorporation into electronic documents, reports and web sites. The Library also has the ability to "burn" or copy 30 compact discs using a new bank of CD towers. Thirty CDs can be copied or burned in a little under 30 minutes. For example, 400 business card CDs were produced for a career fair for the Engineering Division in September.

The next time you're over in the Clock Tower, visit the Library. You might be surprised at what you'll see, and everything that's taking place. Private tours of the services available can be arranged. As the mission statement on the window to the Library's entrance states - "Bringing People and Information Together;" if the Library doesn't have it, the staff will try to locate it and deliver it to your work area. The same service is extended to field locations - just let a member of the Library staff know what you want. The telephone number of the District Library is x5576 or x5884. 📞